President Grube Achieves Goals...

True to his word when he arrived on campus in the Summer of 1999, Georgia Southern President Bruce Grube announced Monday, November 24 he would resign the university presidency, effective June 30, 2009, exactly ten years after he began serving as the university's 11th president. He had said at the time, the effective life of a university president was ten years.

"It is the right time for the university," Grube said in an email announcement to faculty and staff. "It has certainly been an honor beyond words for my wife, Kathryn, and me to have served at Georgia Southern University," he summarized in a subsequent press release.

In making the announcement, Grube indicated he will take one year of educational leave, or sabatical, in consultation with the University System of Georgia mentoring new presidents before returning to the classroom as a political science professor.

Grube's presidency has been transformational for the university. His stated goal of achieving academic distinction and national recognition as one of the top comprehensive residential universities in the nation has been accomplished.

During his ten-year tenure at Georgia Southern, enrollment has increased from 14,766 to 17,764 students, or 23 percent; average SAT scores for incoming freshmen increased from 810 to 1111, a 30 point or 13 percent increase; and retention rates have increased from 69 percent to 81 percent, an increase of 12 percent. Georgia Southern has won two NCAA football titles, added two new colleges--Continuing Education and Information Technology--and, recently, been designated a Carnegie research institution.

Grube presided over a ten-year capital investment program adding ten new buildings, including the College of Education, Nessmith-Lane Performing Arts Center, College of Information Technology, Nursing--Chemistry, Center for Arts & Theatre, Soccer and Track facility, Jesse Bishop Field House, J. J. Clements Baseball Center, Cowart Ticket and Administration Building, Jarrett Football Center, and Bennett-Ramsey Golf Center as well as the massive addition and renovation of the Zahn S. Henderson Library, now one of the finest university libraries in the Southeastern U.S. Likewise, on-campus living quarters have expanded significantly with Southern Courtyard, Southern Pines, Eagle Village, and the new 1,091-bed Centennial Place coming on-line in Fall 2009.

"If you just ride around campus, you can see Dr. Grube's legacy," observers conclude, "When you combine our beautiful campus with higher academic standards you attract better students and faculty.

The Board of Regents will soon begin a national search, expected to take about a year, for Grube's replacement. An interim president could be named if a new president is not in place by July 1, 2009.

Originally from California, Grube served as president of St. Cloud State University in Minnesota from 1983 to 1999 prior to coming to Georgia Southern.

The Jane White Marketing Scholarships

When Dr. Jane F. White passed away in August 2001, she endowed awards for the Jane White Marketing Scholar, to recognize outstanding marketing faculty and the Jane White Marketing Scholarship, to recognize outstanding marketing students. Her legacy will recognize exceptional scholars in the marketing field for many years to come.

Dr. White is warmly remembered by colleagues for her sharp intellect and strength of mind. She received an associate of arts from Christian College in Columbia, Mo., in 1937, a bachelor of science from Central College in Fayette, MO, in 1940, a master of business administration from the University of Denver in 1950, and a doctorate from the University of North Dakota in 1974. She taught high school in Missouri, Maryland, Texas, Colorado, Indiana, North Carolina, Tennessee, Oregon, Washington, and New York and a summer program at Columbia University in New York City.

In addition to her academic positions, Dr. White held secretarial positions with the St. Louis Union Trust Company, United States Cartridge Company, and Sears Roebuck and Company. She often incorporated her work experience and diverse background into her courses, making her a well-rounded business communications professor.

Dr. White was hired by Dr. Paul Labrecque, dean of the School of Business at Georgia Southern College in 1962. Dr. White primarily taught business communications and business education courses at the graduate level. In 1976, she was appointed to the research committee of the American Business Communications Association. Her former department chair, Dr. Bill Boen, professor emeritus, described Dr. White as a "professional, hard-working instructor." Her students describe her as a "taskmaster, yet always fair." Dr. Betty Lane, former chair of the Home Economics Department and a colleague of Dr. White's, described her as "a lovely lady, who could be rather sharp in her demeanor" explaining "she never wanted anyone to dominate her mind."

When Dr. White retired in June 1985 as professor emeritus, her retirement gift from the college was a trip to England for her many years of dedicated service.

University Ranked in Kiplinger’s Top 100

For the first time ever, Georgia Southern University has been named in Kiplinger’s Top 100 Best Values among public colleges and universities. The personal finance and business forecasting company bases its college rankings on a combination of outstanding academic quality and affordable tuition.

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Georgia Southern is one of three Georgia universities, including Georgia Institute of Technology and The University of Georgia, recognized in the recently published annual listing. "We have continued to grow, attracting increasingly brighter and more talented students as parents recognize the value of a Georgia Southern education," said Dr. Teresa Thompson, vice president for student affairs and enrollment management. This year, Georgia Southern's enrollment of 17,764 students, freshman retention rate of 81 percent, and average freshmen SAT score of 1111 were all-time highs for the growing university.
A Message from Dean Shiffer

Let’s do dinner. In your town. On your terms. I would like to visit with you and some of your friends and alumni to share the COBA story.

Within the last year we have been fortunate to have hired Linda Wilke as COBA’s first development officer. Linda and I created a new outreach idea called “Dine with the Dean” where we go on the road to talk with alumni and COBA supporters about the exciting things going on in the business school.

All we need is an invitation and a host. Can we count on you? We have been to Mayville, KY (Tom Cox), Mason (Roger Murphy), Savannah (Bunny Haslam), Dublin (Mike Cunningham), and have future trips scheduled for Altavista (J.T. Madison), Augusta (Tawny Jensen), Hilton Head Island, SC, and Orlando, FL (Laura and Dario Canovas).

We’re talking about our new graduate programs, faculty accomplishments, growth in student numbers and quality, the Sales Center, the forensic accounting initiative, and... well... it’s a whole lot easier to do this person than it is to try to write it all out here. At dinner, we can have good exchanges, questions-and-answers, and an opportunity to fellowship with one another in a more informal setting.

These events have proven to be fun and informative. We have also done breakfasts and lunches, so it doesn’t have to be dinner. My wife, Barbara, often joins us, so spaces are most definitely included.

Let’s do dinner! Just call Linda Wilke at 912-478-3277 or send her an email to twilke@georgiasouthern.edu. We would love to hear from you.

Ronald E. Shiffer, Dean

Top 10 Reasons for Making a Contribution to COBA

- 10 Reduced funding from State appropriations
- 9 Ability to designate where your dollars go
- 8 Personal pride in your alma mater
- 7 A tax deduction!
- 6 A sense of “giving back”
- 5 National rankings
- 4 100 percent of your contribution is used.

We often read about charities that use a portion of your contribution to cover expenses or employees’ salaries.

In some cases, less than half of your contribution is actually used for the charitable purpose you intended.

Not so with a designated contribution to COBA. I emphasize the word “designated.” When you write a check to Georgia Southern Foundation, simply indicate on the check that you want the money to go to COBA. We do not subtract any “overhead” expenses from your contribution. All money that you contribute goes toward a COBA-related activity that could not be funded from state dollars alone.

Stay tuned for Reasons 3 through 1.

From the Alumni Editor

Greetings from the 'Berks

Recently, at Dean Emeritus Paul LaGrone’s 92nd birthday celebrations, a number of the faculty, including COBA faculty members, were reminiscing. It brought back memories of those earlier days in the Hollis Building. A number of our former students from those early years, the 1970’s, are still in Statesboro, including Doug Lambert, Billy Hickman, Frank Denmark, Jody Subbs, and others. It is very gratifying to know they are successful, happy, and contributing members of society. Just maybe this group of mature COBA faculty members had something to do with their successes. We would really like to hear from others who have yet to update their blue cord records.

Growing up in the 1940’s and 1950’s, my older relatives were forever reflecting upon the Winter of ‘06, i.e., 1906, and events extending to the last century. It never occurred to me that one day I would be recalling what happened in ‘06, but it would be 2006! Now I realize most of my life was in the “last century” and twenty-five years of it were in Hollis. Maybe I am sentimental, but I remember those Hollis years fondly. Old guys like Max Holland, “Scooter” Grider, Charlie Edmonds, John Beegle, Lloyd Dosier, and others are still alive—so far as I know—and are often recalled and remembered by alumni with affection, albeit differing levels, I am sure!

Looking back over my print-out of our more than 18,000 COBA alumni, I notice some have no mailing address. We search Switchboard.com, Yahoo, graduation records, etc., and in most cases, when I find them, the response is “I am not lost; I have been here for years.” What I am saying is, “we can’t mail the Eagle Executive if we do not have a home mailing address.” Yes, we get a lot of returned mail, but, when the post office says, “Unable to Deliver: Address,” we go looking. So, if you see a copy of the Eagle Executive and you did not get one, please let me know.

I am always interested in the successes our graduates, so if you hear of them, please let me know. The old saying about communications, “telegraph, telephone, and tell a friend” still works, so, if you see a story, please share with me and keep those blue cards coming back.

Lewis M. Stewart

Lewis M. Stewart, Alumni Editor
Welcome Back Students Day!

Each year, COBA welcomes its new and returning students with free popcorn and soft drinks. This year, we would like to thank William Amphonsah, Rachael Barrett, Tony Barilla, Zandra Brazington, Tom Buckhoff, Charlie Cox, Jackie Eastman, Kevin Eastman, Donna Fisher, Ron Focht, Kathleen Gruben, Jeannette Hadden, Dena Hales, Jim Harris, Mary Hazeldine, Ann Henderson, Tracy Ann Henry, Bob Jackson, Carol Jennings, Ann Kelly, Kim Kennedy, Vicki King, Angela Leverenz, Mike McDonald, Brett McKee, Susan Miller, Linda Munilla, Tom Noland, Cynthia Parrish, Barbara Price, Cindy Randall, Joe Ruhe, Dave Shepherd, Debbie Sinclair, Dwight Sneathen, Mike Thomas, Grant Turner, Joy West, Kemp Wiggins, Jerry Wilson, Mildred Wilson, Harry Wrigley, Bill Young, and Jonathan Zhang, for their help.

SAP Certification Planned for COBA Grad Studies

Information Systems is developing an online SAP Certificate program, including three graduate courses with hands-on SAP experience. One of the new courses, enterprise information systems, was offered for the first time during Fall 2008. This course provides an overview of enterprise system infrastructures and architectures and introduces students to SAP ERP navigation and SAP’s major modules. In Spring 2009, business intelligence will be offered as a CISSM special problems course. Students in this course will get hands-on experience with SAP’s Business Warehouse as well as a variety of data mining and business intelligence tools. In Summer 2008, students will have the opportunity to gain experience in SAP ERP configuration and implementation in CISSM 7331. The primary focus in this course will be on SAP’s financial, control, material management, and sales and distribution modules.

Students have embraced the SAP courses and certification program with enthusiasm. “Before taking SAP classes at Georgia Southern University, I never realized the importance of information systems in a corporation. In the future, companies will not be able to function without structured information systems developed around business models. The combination of the two is what makes it successful. Only a few schools in the U.S. offer an SAP certification, which makes Georgia Southern University very unique. Having SAP experience has opened many doors in my career that I previously did not have,” says Jessica Celina, a MBA student.

The courses are being submitted for review and approval by SAP to enable MBA and MAcc students to earn an SAP Certificate while satisfying degree requirements. They could be used to fulfill the requirements for COBA’s MBA with information systems concentration or MAcc, or COST’s master of applied engineering with IT emphasis degree. Post-baccalaureate students may take SAP-approved undergraduate and graduate courses to earn an SAP Certificate.

The on-line graduate SAP Certificate program is projected to be launched in the 2009-2010 academic year. More information about the SAP undergraduate certificate and the IS minor for COBA students may be found on page 5. If interested, see http://cit.georgiasouthern.edu/is/.

Department News

Finance & Quantitative Analysis

Joe Ruhlmand, assistant professor, presented $5,900 in scholarships to students in risk management and insurance at the Student Finance Association meeting. The deserving students and scholarship sponsors were Hugh Vergara and Ashley Gaff, Atlanta Claims Association President’s Scholarship, Robert Brantley and Corinne Plamer, Atlanta Bob Verhey Scholarship, and Sean Brooks Kennedy, Jordan Johnstun, and Amy Turner, Paul Kidd Memorial Scholarship (see related photos on page 4).

Barbara Price, professor, has been appointed as an Associate for Computing Machinery representative director to CSAB, formerly the Computing Sciences Accreditation Board, the lead society for accreditation of programs in computer science, information systems, software engineering, information technology, and cooperating society for accreditation of computer engineering, within ABET, formerly the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology, which assures quality in engineering and technology accrediting 2,800 programs at more than 600 colleges and universities nationwide.

Information Systems

The Association of Information Technology Professionals recently announced eight colleges and universities received the student chapter outstanding performance award for 2007-2008, including Georgia Southern’s student chapter. Accepting the award were Aaron Ward, chapter president, and Cheryl Aasheim, associate professor and chapter advisor.

Paige Rutner, assistant professor, received her PhD in information systems from the University of Arkansas. Excerpts of her dissertation were published in MIS Quarterly, a prestigious IS journal.

Manouche Tabatabaei, associate professor, will serve as the IS/DSS/IT/Expert Systems track chair for 2009 Decision Science Institute International Conference in Nancy, France.

Camille Rogers, associate professor, has been elected to the board of Southern Association for Information Systems and will serve as program chair for the 2009. She has also agreed to serve on the Advisory Committee of the Statesboro High School Career, Technical, and Agricultural Education Department.

Thomas Case, professor, was elected treasurer for Alpha Iota Mu, the international honor society for information systems.

Robert Newman retired as lecturer of Information Systems at the end of Fall Semester 2008, but will continue to teach computer forensics part-time in the MAcc program.

Management, Marketing, & Logistics

The WERC Watch is a publication distributed quarterly by the Warehousing Education and Research Council (WERC) for warehousing professionals. The Spring 2008 issue is devoted exclusively to the results of DC Velocity’s Annual Warehouse Benchmarking study, which was co-authored by Karl Manrodt, associate professor. Dr. Manrodt’s picture is featured on the front page of this very colorful and professional publication. Graduate student, Joe Tillman, is also mentioned in the acknowledgments.


Karl Manrodt traveled to Berlin, Germany recently to attend the 17th Annual Trends and Issues in Logistics Management, Marketing, & Transportation conference.

School of Accountancy

Tom Noland, associate professor, was awarded the Lybrand Bronze Medal for research by the Institute of Management Accountants (IMA). The award was presented to Dr. Noland and his co-authors at the IMA’s 89th Annual Conference in Tampa, FL. The Lybrand Medal is named after the IMA’s 2nd president, William Lybrand, a founding partner of the firm Coopers & Lybrand, now PricewaterhouseCoopers.

Leslie Fletcher, professor, presented an update on U.S. convergence with international financial reporting standards at the joint national conference of the American Society of Women Accountants and the American Women’s Society of Certified Public Accountants in Dallas, TX.

School of Economic Development

The Economics Club offered a premier showing of I.O.U.S.A., a film dealing with the current debt of the U.S. government and the financing of Social Security. In the film, director Patrick Creadon looks at America’s spendthrift ways and impending economic disaster as the Baby Boomer generation prepares to retire. A discussion facilitated by Tony Barilla, Amanda King, and Godfrey Gibbison, all associate professors, followed with refreshments sponsored by Chick-fil-A.

Michele Debhan, national recruiter for C.H. Robinson Worldwide, Eden Prairie, MN, a global leader in transportation, logistics, and sourcing, recently presented Dean Ron Shiffer, Dave Shepherd, and Jerry Wilson with a $5,000 check to fund five $1,000 scholarships in sales and logistics.

Camille Rogers, Hsiang-Jui Kung, associate professor, and Ron Mackinnon, associate professor, have attended SAP faculty development workshops, including ERP sessions in Montreal, Canada, and Milwaukee, WI.
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<th>2008 Scholarship Recipients</th>
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<td><strong>Freeman Business Scholars</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Alyssa Oravec</td>
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<td>Kurt Rigby</td>
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<td>Rebecca Whatley</td>
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<th><strong>Beta Gamma Sigma</strong></th>
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<td>Elena Benincini and Human Resource Management Award and Savannah Chapter of the Society for Human Resource Management Award</td>
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<th><strong>Delta Sigma Pi</strong></th>
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<td>Jessica L. Murray</td>
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<th><strong>GATE Scholars</strong></th>
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<td>Celeste Thompson</td>
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<td>Katie Carter</td>
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<td>Brett Layson</td>
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<th><strong>Robert Morris Scholars</strong></th>
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<td>Adam Huttner</td>
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<th><strong>WACO Fire &amp; Casualty Insurance Scholars</strong></th>
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<td>Michael Struchten, Olivia Batten, Tia McCarthy, Chelsea Culler, and Emily Scott</td>
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**Recipients Not Pictured**

*Corporate Leadership Scholars will be featured in Spring 2009.*
The Becker CPA Review

The Master of Accounting (MAcc) program at Georgia Southern focuses on the knowledge and skills needed for a career in public accounting. Since inception, the program has satisfied Georgia’s 150 semester-hour education requirement for a CPA. Yet, until 2008, few Georgia Southern students completed the CPA examination prior to graduation. The CPA exam is made up of four one-half day exams covering financial accounting, regulation, auditing, and business concepts.

In 2008, the School of Accountancy began offering the Becker CPA review, and the CPA exam pass rate for MAcc students jumped dramatically. Twenty-four students, faculty, and local practicing accountants enrolled in the Becker CPA review at Georgia Southern this fall. The results were outstanding. Georgia Southern’s Becker CPA review students passed 67 percent of the exams they took, a significant improvement over past experiences when Georgia Southern students had pass rates in the 20 to 25 percent range, and passing the entire CPA exam prior to graduation was extremely rare.

Georgia Southern students now have the option of taking the Becker CPA review for three semester hours of elective credit in the MAcc program. Students taking the review for credit must pass a rigorous in class exam after each portion of the CPA review. MAcc graduates receive competitive job offers in public accounting, industry, government, and not-for-profit organizations. Accounting faculty are committed to student success, taking an active role in helping students identify and locate the right career option. ◆

Verdict: Taking a Real World Approach

Students in Dr. Buckhoff’s expert witness class argued before Bulloch County State Court Judge Gary Mikell presiding over a mock proceeding of plaintiff shareholders in Brodnax Minerals Company, an exploratory gold mining company, versus defendant Healy & Wallace, LLP, an independent accounting firm that audited Brodnax’s financial statements.

The purpose of the event was to provide the students a hands-on opportunity to prepare expert reports and provide testimony in an actual courtroom, invaluable experience in developing their careers in forensic accounting.

The plaintiff’s position was simply Healy & Wallace violated professional standards in issuing a clean audit opinion subsequently relied upon by shareholders investing $4 billion in Brodnax, which had fraudulently overstated the amount of gold at its sole mining site. After the massive fraud was uncovered, “investors lost virtually all of their investment, primarily due to the lax oversight of accountants,” according to allegations. The students on the defense team begged to differ, arguing the “accountants had no knowledge of the fraud, and indeed were deceived themselves.” Laura Wheaton, from Brown, Rontree, PC, served as consulting attorney for the plaintiff team while Susan Cox, from Edenfield, Cox, Bruce, and Classens offered consultation for the defense team.

The jury, comprised of Georgia Southern students and professional community volunteers, deliberated the issues and rendered a verdict in favor of the accounting firm, holding them harmless in the fraud case. Matt Barnhill, who delivered plaintiff’s opening statement, concluded the mock trial was a resounding success saying, “It is nice to get outside the classroom and get hands-on experience.” “Nothing we read in a textbook or discuss in class can substitute for an opportunity to experience this setting,” continued John Bowles, who offered defense opening remarks. “We thank the City of Statesboro and honorable Judge Gary Mikell. Their cooperation reflects how invested the community is in helping Georgia Southern,” concluded Buckhoff. ◆

CIT Advisory Board Meets

On Friday evening, an informal reception was held, and the board enjoyed refreshments, finger foods, and an opportunity to network with faculty members from each department on current business practices and trends. The primary topics of discussion centered on keeping CIT program curricula current to best prepare Georgia Southern students for employment and stimulating demand for CIT graduates. It was an enjoyable interlude between work sessions.

The College of Information Technology extends thanks to the Advisory Board members for their service, concluding, “Your support is critical to our future success and continuously keeping CIT on the cutting edge.” ◆

New IS Minor

Information technology (IT) is woven into the fabric of today’s businesses and is a driver of most business innovations. Organizations need business professionals who “get” IT and the newly minted information systems (IS) minor has the potential to help COBA graduates stand out in the job market.

The IS minor has been tailored to appeal to business majors but can be completed by students in any major at the university. Like other business minors, it requires students to complete survey of accounting, financial accounting, and managerial accounting. It also includes management information systems and three junior, senior, and graduate-level computer information systems courses. Prerequisites have been changed for multiple upper-level courses, including systems analysis & design, data communications, and project management, to make them more accessible to students pursuing the minor.

Students are able to complete the minor without taking a programming course. The minor has also been structured to enable students to complete three SAP-approved courses and earn an SAP Certificate. This certificate can expand student career options and help graduates catch the attention of SAP user organizations.

In a nutshell, the IS minor can improve the marketability of students by preparing them to:  
• identify, select, and evaluate technology solutions for business problems,
• be a knowledgeable user of IT, and
• be that person in the business unit who can successfully interact and work with technology professionals.

The IS minor can strengthen the résumé of any COBA major and it may be an especially valuable résumé-builder for accounting and logistics majors. More information about the minor and the SAP Certificate are available on the Information Technology building.

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After serving Graduate Studies coordinator for more than twelve years, I must say farewell and return to the classroom full-time. As I contemplated this decision, along with the breadth and depth of today’s COBA grad program and its future, it became clear the outstanding faculty support, knowledgeable staff, and technological platform will be a great strength to the successor of this office. The past twelve years have been amazing, and I cannot speak highly enough of how much I appreciate the opportunity to serve COBA in this capacity.

Over the years, I have seen the graduate program grow from delivery at the Boater’s World building near Savannah Mall, when the MAcc program was just getting off the ground, to broad and diversified offering of courses, programs, and degrees. Now, we offer the full MBA program from the state-of-the-art Coastal Georgia Center in Savannah, our MAcc program is nationally recognized, and the Georgia WebMBA has become a huge success. We have recently introduced new programs in economics and forensics. It is amazing how much things have changed, how fast time has passed, and how much fun we have had in the process!

So, I bid farewell with a slight touch of regret and longing, cherish the many students I have befriended over the years, and will miss the daily involvement with the graduate students, faculty and staff, but I am excited about being able to return full time to my first love - the classroom. I thank everyone for the many years of support and wish the next director best of luck. — Mike McDonald

The Georgia WebMBA®, offered in consortium with four other Georgia schools, including Valdosta State University, Georgia College and State University, University of West Georgia, and Kennesaw State University, began its eleventh and twelfth classes this fall. The program offers six good reasons to consider continuing your professional graduate education.

1. The Georgia WebMBA® is highly rated. GetEducated.com has ranked the Georgia WebMBA®, 17th out of the 168 on-line AACSB-accredited MBA degree programs nationwide and the only Georgia program identified in the top 30 by U.S. News and World Report recognized Georgia Southern’s MBA as one of the top 400 Graduate Programs in 2008 and Princeton Review’s 2007 and 2008 special editions of the 237 Best Business Schools included Georgia Southern’s graduate degree programs in business and accounting.

2. The Georgia WebMBA® offers outstanding value. The total 2008-2009 tuition for the ten course WebMBA®, and required orientation class is $17,825. Comparable programs, particularly private programs may cost as much as $50,000 and up.

3. Employers value the Georgia WebMBA® degree. The Georgia WebMBA® has students from all walks of life; from Fortune 500 giants to the self-employed; from Delta pilots to Georgia Power engineers; from Savannah Memorial Medical physicians to The Home Depot middle managers. In many cases, students receive tuition reimbursement from their employers because they value enhanced skills and knowledge an employee gains from the WebMBA®.

4. Most students graduate from the Georgia WebMBA® program. The typical Georgia Southern Georgia WebMBA® student is 29 years old, with 10 years of work experience, a 3.36 under-graduate grade point average, and a 500 plus Graduate Management Admission Test score. Georgia WebMBA® students are experienced, capable, and achievement-oriented. Classes feature team-based projects and individual initiative, an exceptionally high level of esprit de corps, and an overall retention rate of approximately 88 percent.

5. The Georgia Web MBA® is high quality. Georgia Southern is a member of the MBA Roundtable, which represents graduate business programs sharing curriculum, research, publications, ideas, information, and resources for program content and delivery. Courses are state of the art and taught by the best PhD-level faculty, published in their respective fields, and highly experienced in teaching, applied practice, and online learning.

6. The Georgia WebMBA® is ideally suited for the busy professional. Today’s professionals cannot commit to a fixed schedule of classes. The typical student is busy with job, family, and life. The WebMBA® fits students’ need for flexibility. Many students travel, some live in remote areas where no MBA programs are available, and others enroll from around the U. S. and the world. If interested, please call 912-478-5483 or email alevert@georgiasouthern.edu or visit www.webmbaonline.org.

The headquarters of Georgia WebMBA® program moved to Georgia Southern University this fall. Left-to-right, Ron Shiffler, Barbara Price, and Mike McDonald, far right, welcome Joe Bocchi, program director.
Jordan Dukes

Jordan Dukes (Information Systems 1999) began his career as a network engineer for The Home Depot at its corporate headquarters in Atlanta. He was involved in several projects including WAN connectivity, re-addressing, and documenting server and bandwidth utilization for Home Depot ecommerce. As a senior network engineer working with AT&T and British Telecom in 2000, he worked in concert with sales teams to design and implement custom solutions for data customers, becoming a senior sales engineer for BT Global Services that year. With primary responsibilities for customer presentations, request for proposal and bid preparation, and technical bid qualification, Jordan was responsible for growing, maintaining, and protecting customer revenue. He consistently exceeded quarterly sales objectives with technical responsibilities for transformational bids including single source vendor aggregation and outsourcing.

Later, Jordan accepted a sales engineer position with World Wide Packets where he was responsible for all accounts in the Southeast U.S. as well as several national wireline service accounts. Earlier this year, Cisco acquired World Wide Packets and, since, Jordan has served as senior sales engineer and carrier ethernet subject matter expert (SSE-CESME) the only one in Pental and one of few in Georgia, Nebraska, or even Hong Kong.

Kim Brannen

Kim Brannen (Finance 1994) of Sea Island Bank, Statesboro, was recently installed as president of Leadership GBA, sponsored by the Georgia Bankers Association, at the association’s 48th annual leadership conference in Ponce Veda Beach, FL. Leadership GBA is comprised of young, emerging banking leaders throughout the state.

Kim is vice president and manager of Sea Island Bank’s Private Client Group. She joined Sea Island Bank as a commercial lender in 1997. Through her association with Synovus Securities, Inc., she holds a Series 7 License (General Securities Representative), a Series 66 License (Investment Adviser and Uniform Securities Representative) and a Georgia license to sell annuities, life and health insurance. As manager of the Private Client Group, Kim is involved with a team of private bankers, mortgage specialists, trust professionals, securities financial consultants, and financial planners at headquartered in Sea Island Bank’s Professional Center in Statesboro’s Market District.

Kim is a board member for CSRA Business Lending, Statesboro-Bulloch Chamber of Commerce, and Leadership Bulloch. She has held leadership positions on Joseph’s Home for Boys executive committee, the Bulloch County Board of Education School Council, and Youth Leadership Bulloch.

Kim has been recognized by awards from the Georgia Bankers Association President’s Circle and Chamber of Commerce President’s Award. Active in First Baptist Church of Statesboro, she serves as a Sunday School teacher and Royal Ambassador leader. Kim lives in Statesboro with her husband, Aubert Brennen III, and sons, Judson (11) and John-Daniele (9).

Steve Benson

Steve Benson (Finance 1987), a tennis player at Georgia Southern, began a 19 year career in employee benefits with Scotia McLeod in his native Toronto, Canada, after graduation. He later joined North American Life, acquired by Manulife Financial, and subsequently Money & Money as Group Benefits Consultant before starting his own firm, Benson Benefits Consulting in 2004. Having the independence of running his own practice afforded Steve the opportunity get involved in his first passion, tennis, as a Certified Tennis Canada and freelance instructor in Barrie and the City of Barrie’s Park and Recreation program. Another passion, the Barrie-Horizons Rotary Club, has afforded the past director and public relations director additional opportunity for community involvement.

Recently, Steve has merged Benson Benefits Consulting with Penmore Benefits, Inc., the employee benefits division of Penmore Financial Group, a full-service, comprehensive financial security planning firm, specializing in estate, corporate, and wealth planning firm based in Concord, Ontario. “I am most proud of the fact that I have established a very strong reputation in the employee benefits field with the highest of ethical standards, been married for over 37 years to an incredible woman, and been blessed with two amazing children—a son (15) and a daughter (12)”.

Brandon Gillis

Brandon Gillis’s (Information Systems 2000) first job following graduation was webmaster and corporate intranet manager for Savannah-based H.O. Systems. In January 2001, he joined IBM as a service delivery manager for end-to-end delivery of strategic outsourcing accounts. Brandon was also responsible for managing customer expectations and contract deliverables. He branched out with his own business as a sole proprietor in Gillis Construction, LLC, in 2004 and then, in April 2007, left IBM to serve as director of operations for ComputeLogic, an Internet company that, since 1999, has become one of the collision repair industry’s most respected software development companies. His responsibilities include managing the execution and delivery of all projects and services sold to customers and carrying out project management duties as needed for new and existing customer accounts.
November 20 was Entrepreneurship Day for Georgia Southern’s Colleges of Business Administration and Information Technology. Two events highlighted Dr. Luke Pittaway’s and the Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership’s focus on entrepreneurial opportunities for students and faculty.

First, entrepreneurship students in Dr. Pittaway’s classes exhibited their business concept projects in the atrium of the Information Technology building. A Venture Concept Exhibition, first of many to come, offered student teams an opportunity to identify a unique business concept, assess the potential market, and develop a presentation to test the public acceptance and viability of their ideas. The presentations were fascinating, ranging from manufacturing to service in a wide spectrum of industries. The idea was to develop market input and feedback before full business plan development.

The highlight of the day was a seminar, World-Class Entrepreneurship as Experience, held at the Nessmith-Lane Performing Arts Center. The presentation focused upon entrepreneurship as a philosophy, or choice of emphasis, in decision-making. The research seminar highlighted the experiential nature of entrepreneurship that results in entrepreneurs being shaped by the venture as much as the entrepreneur shapes and governs the venture.

The keynote speaker, Dr. Michael Morris, holds the Witting Chair in Entrepreneurship at Syracuse University and serves as chair of the Department of Entrepreneurship & Emerging Enterprises, a program identified as the National Model Program in Entrepreneurship by the U.S. Association for Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

Dr. Morris holds a PhD in marketing from Virginia Tech, an MS in economics, an MBA, and has been a principal in three entrepreneurial start-ups. He has published four books, authored hundreds research articles, and has been honored as Pi Sigma Epsilon’s National Faculty Advisor of the Year, NCEC’s 21st Century Entrepreneurship Research Fellow, Ernst & Young’s Entrepreneur of the Year, and received the prestigious Oberwager Prize for impacting students beyond the classroom.

As part of the Center’s mission and in conjunction with Dr. Morgan Miles’s entrepreneurial research, Dr. Nicole Coviello, research fellow at the University of Glasgow, Scotland, presented a seminar, Publishing Across Disciplines: A Long and Winding Road, to research professors from across entrepreneurship disciplines, reflecting upon the success, risk, and investigative opportunity of multi-disciplinary inquiry. Dr. Coviello received her PhD in marketing and international business from the University of Auckland, New Zealand, has published widely, and serves on numerous editorial boards, having recently received the 2008 Best Reviewer award from the Journal of International Business Studies.

Cynthia Metrejean, assistant professor of accounting, has recently been awarded the Certified in Financial Forensics (CFF) Credential by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA). The CFF Credential, established in 2008 by the AICPA, is granted to qualified CPAs with considerable professional experience in financial forensics. Dr. Buckhoff met the requirements to earn the CFF credential, which include demonstrating significant business experience in the area of financial forensics as well as completing a minimum of 75 hours of life-long learning and education activities in the area of financial forensics. The CFF Credential is granted exclusively to CPAs who are members in good standing of the AICPA, which binds them to the AICPA Code of Professional Conduct.

Effective April 1, 2009, the CFF Credential must be recertified every three years to maintain their credential. The AICPA (www.aicpa.org) is the national, professional association of CPAs, with more than 350,000 members, including CPAs in business and industry, public practice, government, and education. It sets ethical standards for the profession and U.S. auditing standards for audits of private companies; federal, state, and local governments; and nonprofit organizations. It also develops and grades the Uniform CPA Examination. headquartered in New York, the AICPA also maintains offices in Washington, DC; Durham, NC; and Lewistown, PA.
COBA Welcomes New Faculty

The newest members of the COBA family are presented below. Each person emerged as the top candidate in the search processes, and we are excited about the talents and skills they bring to COBA. Please join us in welcoming them to the team. We presently have a total of four faculty searches for the 2009-2010 year: a department chair search and an international management faculty search in the Department of Management, Marketing, & Logistics; director of the School of Economic Development search; and an MBA director and a non-tenure track faculty search in the Office of Graduate Studies. We are excited about the prospects of adding additional new faculty in our corps of instruction.

Sahar Bahmani
School of Economic Development

Sahar Bahmani, visiting professor, brings six years of teaching and her research in macroeconomics, monetary economics, and economic development to Georgia Southern. Her hobbies include playing piano and tennis as well as working out and spending time with her family and husband, who is a professor in the political science department at Georgia Southern.

Joon-Kun Cho
Department of Management, Marketing & Logistics

Jay Cho, assistant professor of logistics, earned his PhD and MBA from the University of Arkansas, MS from the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, CA, and BA from the Korea Military Academy in Seoul, Korea. Previously, Dr. Cho served in the Korean and U.S. Army as a professional officer more than 20 years before joining academe. Dr. Cho’s primary research interests are in the area of global supply chain management, third party logistics and outsourcing, performance measurement scale development, and e-based logistics. His daughter, Yoon-Na, is a doctoral student in marketing; his wife is Joyce Lee.

Janet Moss
Department of Finance & Quantitative Analysis

Janet Moss, lecturer, earned an MBA from Georgia State University and a BA in management and psychology from the University of South Florida. Mrs. Moss has been an instructor in the College of Business since 2000. She taught business statistics and human resource management at Delta State University and has more than 10 years of private industry experience in the human resources field and more than 10 years of teaching experience at the college level. Mrs. Moss and her husband, Steve, live in Statesboro with their two children.

William I. Norton, Jr.
Department of Management, Marketing & Logistics

Bill Norton, associate professor of management, earned a PhD from the University of South Carolina. His teaching and research interests are strategy, entrepreneurship, leadership, and ethics. Dr. Norton taught at Indiana University Southeast and at the University of Louisville before joining the COBA faculty. A former infantry officer and CPA, he makes his home in Statesboro with his wife, Elaine, and their daughter, Macy.

Yuan Wen
Department of Finance & Quantitative Analysis

Yuan Wen successfully defended her dissertation in March 2008 and received her PhD in finance at Temple University. Her research is focused on issues of corporate governance, executive compensation and ownership structure. Dr. Wen’s teaching experience is in corporate finance and financial institutions. She has worked in the areas of quantitative analysis, statistics, and operations management. Her research interests are in the area of new product design.

Michael Wiggins
School of Accountancy

Michael Wiggins, assistant professor, received a BA in fine arts from Wichita State, a PMBA from the University of Massachusetts, and a JD from University of Arizona. He has more than ten years practical experience in corporate law, litigation, employment law, and business ethics. Dr. Wiggins has taught business law at the university level, developed on-line courses, and is Blackboard certified. His research interests include on-line education administration and the interaction between law and business.

William A. Freeman Distinguished Chair in Free Enterprise

Luke Pittaway

Luke Pittaway is the William A. Freeman Distinguished Chair in Free Enterprise. He earned his PhD from the University of Newcastle and BA from the University of Huddersfield in Great Britain. Dr. Pittaway previously served the University of Sheffield as director of enterprise education, Centre for Regional Economic and Enterprise Development and director of research, Centre of Excellence in the Teaching and Learning of Enterprise; the National Council of Graduate Entrepreneurship as a research and education fellow; and the Advanced Institute of Management Research as a scholar. Dr. Pittaway’s research focuses on entrepreneurship education, behavior, and learning and has been published extensively. He is currently serving on the editorial boards of the International Small Business Journal, International Journal of Entrepreneurial Behaviour and Research, and International Journal of Entrepreneurship Education. He and his wife, Liz, reside in Statesboro.

Yunan Zhang
Department of Management, Marketing & Logistics

Yunan Zhang received his PhD from the University of South Carolina. He has served as an associate editor and reviewer for leading journals, including MIS Quarterly, European Journal of Information Systems, Information & Organization, and Journal of Information Systems Security. In his spare time, he enjoys outdoor activities such as duck hunting, camping, and fishing. He and his wife, Ali, hail from Tallahassee, Florida.

William A. Freeman Distinguished Chair in Free Enterprise

Jordan Shropshire
Department of Information Systems

Jordan Shropshire, assistant professor, recently completed his dissertation on information security at Mississippi State University. He received his undergraduate degree in business at the University of Florida. Dr. Jordan’s research interests include behavioral and technical aspects of information security, IT disaster recovery, technology diffusion, and measurement issues. His work has been published in several journals and conference proceedings. He has served as an associate editor and reviewer for leading journals, including MIS Quarterly, European Journal of Information Systems, Information & Organization, and Journal of Information Systems Security. In his spare time, Jordan enjoys outdoor activities such as duck hunting, camping, and fishing. He and his wife, Ali, hail from Tallahassee, Florida.

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The number of internships for students in the College of Business Administration averages more than 150 annually. These come from a variety of companies including the Alltel, American Ports Services, Briggs & Stratton, Centro Homes, Chateau Elan Hotels & Resorts, D. J. Powers, Inc., Dairy Queen, Denman & Brown, DNSF, Don Foods, East Georgia Regional Center, Enterprise Rent-a-Car, Expeditors International, Florida State University, Frances B. Dantzler, CPA, Future Trees, Inc., Georgia Ports Authority, Georgia Southern University, Habitat for Humanity, Hancock Askew & Co., International Center for Leadership & Coaching, Interstate Transport, JIT Warehousing, Kimberly-Clark Corp., Lanier Worldwide, Inc., Liberty Tax & Accounting Service, Mass Media Marketing, Memorial Hospital, Mermaid Cottages, Merrill Lynch, Moe’s Southwest Grill, Mountville Mills, Inc., NeSmith Chevrolet, New York Stock Exchange, Ogeechee Technical College, Park Avenue Bank, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Regis, Sea Island Bank, Serenity Day Spa & Salon, Southern Boosters, Spirit and Truth Worship Center, Starlight Children’s Foundation, Taco Bell, Target Stores, The Herff Jones Company, Uline, and Viraron.

The College of Business Administration has 98 full-time faculty members, 11 administrative and part-time faculty, and 18,108 alumni; the College of Information Technology has 25 full-time faculty members, 14 administrative and part-time faculty, and 379 alumni.
Eagle Executive Society Charter Members

The Eagle Executive Society is focused upon building communication between COBA and its alumni. Alumni and friends who invest $50 in the students, faculty, programs, and future success of COBA during 2008 are considered Charter Members and receive a certificate of stock in COBA, a subscription to the Eagle Executive, and personal invitations to special receptions, seminars, and programs. The Eagle Executive Society supports activities beyond the classroom by funding student competitions, travel, scholarships, assistantships, research, and scholarly endeavors. You may become a Charter Member before year-end 2008 at https://touchpay.georgiasouthern.edu/eagleexecutive/. Current charter members are listed below.

Eagle Executive

Frances S. Deal
Julian I. Deal
Frank Denmark
Trey Denton, III
D. Morgan Derst
Mary Devine
Charles H. Dickson, Jr.
John Franklin Dismuke
Sean Dodrill
Justin L. Dunn
Lori S. Durden
Dustin Durden
Jacqueline K. Eastman
Kevin L. Eastman
Michael English
Donna Lesia Finch-Thomas
Olivia S. Flanagan
Leilie B. Fletcher
Jenny S. Foss
Sara Fountain
Peter L. Fraley
Robert Franklin
George Freeman
Jenny L. Gentry
Godfrey A. Gibbson
Carl Googing
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Josh Matthew Lane
John Leaptrott, Jr.
Samantha G. Lee
W. John Lee, Jr.
Ryan Lewis
Buddy Lichty
Mary J. Lockwood
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Carolyn Luckadoo
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Todd Manack
Gabriel Manning
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Jimmy F. Marshall, Jr.
David W. Mayer
Steve B. McClelland
Lauren McCraw
John McDaniel
Mike McDonald
Samuel A. McDuffie
C. William McGahee
Matthew R. McGhee
Britton McKay
William H. Melian
Beverly W. McLendon
Robert Melton
Cheryl T. Metrejean
Paul Metrejean
Morgan P. Miles
Lowell Mooney
James L. Moore
H. Phillip Moore, Jr.
Richard A. Moreau
D. Greg Morgan
Joshua B. Morris
Melanie B. Mosley
Linda Mullen
Linda S. Munilla
Ed Nelson
Maurice H. Nimmons, Jr.
Charley Nix
Lana Nix
Thomas G. Noland
G. Mike Odom, Jr.
Timothy O'Mahony
Robert R. Padgett
Abbie Parham
Kelly C. Penn
David K. Pitman
Lake Pittaway
James Pollak
Andrea Powell
DeL E. Presley
Larry E. Price
Russell A. Priddy
Aliese P. Priddy
James Randall
Cindy H. Randall
Stephen E. Rary
Mona K. Ratchford
Danny Keith Ricks
Glen Riecken
Patrick S. Rising
Charles G. Rogers
Stephen J. Routtner
Madeleine Ruhlind
Michael Ryan
Michael R. Sanders
Ryan T. Schneider
John J. Schuyller III
Erica Sellers
Louise S. Shackelford
C. David Shepherd
Thomas Sherrouse
Ron Shiffler
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Charles Shuman
Edward Sibbald
Maria Sibbald
Ralph S. Sikes, Jr.
John Dennis Silva
Jacob V. Simons
Michael W. Skinner
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Jennifer S. Smith
Lowell Stamehlin, Jr.
Jean Carol Spoolstra
Ronald W. Stalmaker
Justin Stamey
Helen Stembridge
Asbury Stembridge, Jr.
Rian A. Stephens III
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Charlene K. Stewart
Alan M. Straw
William N. Straw, Jr.
David A. Streets
Jody P.Stubbi
Perry Sumner, Jr.
Cathy Owens Swift
Cheryl Tatman
Thomas Tharpe
Robert E. Thigpen, Jr.
Nina Thompson
Valerie A. Thompson
Lee Tompkins, Jr.
Joseph Tompkins
Kris Michael Trainer
Edward Truzzino
F. Ward Trulock
Scott Tuton
Derick Tuttle
Allison Vaughn
Robert Verhey
Robert Norton Ware
Benjamin B. Watkins III
Misty Watson
Mark A. Weeks
William H. Wells
Linda Wilke
Susan R. Williams
Bobbie Williams
Richard S. Williams
Alvin Williams
Lois Williams
Kyle Williams
Rusell Williams, Jr.
Lynda B. Williamson
Bonnie C. Wilson
Jerey Wilis, South
Wendel H. Wilson
William R. Woolford
Mircle Yap
Karl Van Zeigler
Kimberly Zell

Fall 2008 Eagle Executive

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W. L. “Bill” Thomas (1988 MGT), Big Bad Wolf Barbeque, catered a barbecue luncheon for the homecoming cookout held under the water tower in the parking lot of Paulson Stadium. Special thanks are extended to COBA’s Homecoming Committee, Jerry Wilson, professor of logistics and marketing; Jan Grimes, instructor of management; Linda Mullen, assistant professor of management; Susan Williams, associate dean; and Lisa Williams, administrative specialist, for their help with this event. Later that day, Georgia Southern’s Eagles suffered a heartbreaking loss to Samford’s Bulldogs. The final score was 27-17.
Accounting

G. Mike Odom (1984), Richmond Hill, is now an executive vice president and Liberty County division president for the Coastal Bank, Hinesville. He is engaged to Mary Hannaford, a 1984 Georgia Southern accounting graduate, and they have two children.

Mark G. Reddick (1989; MBA 1994), formerly in Grayson, is now in Cumming, where he is dean of technical studies for Appalachian Technical College Jasper. Email: markreddick@hotmail.com.

David M. Hylton (1992), formerly in Charlotte, NC, is now in Huntersville, NC, where he is a CPA and senior tax manager for Wayne Noble & Company, CPAs, Charlotte. His wife is Kim Williams. Email: dmhylton@wagnernomobile.com.

Michelle Cufforth Wells (1993; MBA 1994), formerly in Quincy, IL, is now in Greer, SC, where she is a tax manager and CPA with Ernst & Young, Greenville, SC. She is married to Derek Wells, and they have two daughters.

Michael S. Lamberth (1994), Quinton, VA, is now married to Jessica Rodgers Reese and was one of our soccer players. Email: blamberth@hotmail.com.

Jennifer L. Denmark (2005), formerly in Brooklet, is now in Atlanta, where she is a mortgage broker with Lenox Financial Mortgage. She is engaged to Eric A. Schreppel, a 2004 Georgia Southern logistics graduate.

Jeanette Kullum Laford (2005), Statesboro, is a staff auditor with the Georgia Department of Audits. She is married to Robert Lafond, a 2007 Georgia Tech graduate. Email: jeleukum@hotmail.com.

Business Administration

Robbie Franklin (1964), Statesboro, owner of Franklin Toyota, is the recipient of the President’s Award from Toyota for the second straight year. His dealership is the area’s only two consecutive year winner of the award.

Economics

Uli Ebensperger (2002), Aldorf, Germany, is an analyst with Cohen & Company, Paris. Uli was one of our tennis players. Email: uliebensperger@hotmail.com.

Shantel R. Roberson (2004), formerly in Pooler, is now in Garden City, where she is a project manager with the Savannah Economic Development Authority. She recently married James Wilson, a current student at Savannah Technical College.

Terrence McCuff (2006), Pooler, is currently working on his MBA at Georgia Southern.

Finance

Michelle M. Boss (1985), formerly in Rome, is now in Loganville, where she is the owner of Razzles Daycare Center. She is married to Donald Boss.

John Edward Waters (1988), Ooltewah, TN, is the lead pastor for the Christway Community Church. He is married to Angela Riley, a 1989 Georgia Southern printing management graduate. John, from Statesboro, was one of our cross country runners. Email: JWaters@christwaychurch.org.

Wesley S. Fountain (1989), Swainsboro, has a property rental business.

R. Steve Raines (1989), formerly in Covington, is now in Jackson, where he is the production supervisor for The Scotts/Miracle-Gro Company. He has a son named Austin. Email: steve-raines@scotts.com.

Business Administration

Brian R. Markowitz (1991), Savannah, is now vice president of Morgan Keegan. His wife is Amy Rahn, and they have two children. Email: brian.morgan@morgankeegan.com.

Ryan T. Schneider (1991), Savannah, president of Hostetter Schneider Realty Partners, is also president of the Realtors Commercial Alliance. Ryan is also president of Savannah/Hilton Head realtors Commercial Alliance. He is married to Sharon Stubbs. Email: ryan@htrguypartners.com.

James M. “Jamey” Durrence, III (1994), Tallahassee, FL, is now in Tallahassee, where he is president of Jamey Durrence, Inc. Email: james@jameydurrence.com.

Alumna

Laura Decker Macrenaris (Accounting 2003; cum laude) works just outside of Atlanta as a corporate accountant for the billion dollar concrete company, Oldcastle Precast, a subsidiary of the Irish company CRH, Inc. After graduation, Laura took a job at an accounting firm in Gainesville and soon began work on an MBA. In Fall 2006, she earned an MBA through the University of Phoenix’s online program.

While at Georgia Southern, Laura was a Diamond Girl for the baseball team and attended the University of Innsbruck, Austria, as part of the Study Abroad Program. She was able to travel throughout Italy, Switzerland, and Germany on the weekends during the program. Laura states her experience in the Study Abroad Program “was the best of my life, one I will treasure forever, and I owe it all to a flyer I saw on campus one day.”

Laura married Jason Macrenaris on April 19, 2008. After a honeymoon in St. Lucia, the couple purchased a home in Stone Mountain.

Walter “Nick” Prapps (1998), formerly in Bethesda, MD, is now in Statesboro, where he is an associate broker with Manack Signature Properties. Email: njprapps.com.

Jill Freeman Forehand (1999), Sylvia, is now the assistant director of donor relations for Georgia Southern. She is married to Jason Forehand. Email: jforehand@georgiasouthern.edu.

Shelia Rogers Hill (1999; MBA 2001), formerly in Jesup, is now in McDonough, where she is an Acct II with the Georgia Department of Labor. She is married to Lance A. Hill, a 1999 Georgia Southern finance graduate. While in the MBA program, Shelia was a graduate assistant in the Office of Publications and helped put out the Eagle Executive and other COBA publications. Email: shielarhill@yahoo.com.

Lance A. Hill (1999), formerly in Saint George, is now in McDonough, where he is a trust administrator with SunTrust Bank. He is married to Shelia Rogers, a 1999 Georgia Southern finance and 2001 MBA graduate.

Matthew L. DeLoach (2001), Statesboro, campaign manager for John Stone for Congress, is engaged to Jessica Redmond, an Armstrong Atlantic State University alumna.

Wilkeyda Austin (2003), formerly in Savannah, is now in Stockbridge, where she is a credit analyst for SunTrust Bank, Atlanta. Email: wlaust@yahoo.com.

Michael “Skip” Swain (2003), Saint Marys, is now a commercial loan officer for The Coastal Bank of Georgia, Kingsland. Email: skipswan@coastalbankofga.com.

Justin McCartney (2004), formerly in Hinesville, is now in Statesboro, where he has been made a partner with CORE and COUSO Financial Services. His wife is Katherine, and they have a daughter, Mackenzie.

Jennifer Suzanne Waters (2004), Savannah, a financial center lender for BB&T, is engaged to Thomas Todd Mayo, an Armstrong Atlantic State University graduate.

Eric Hagen (2005), formerly in Brunswick, is now in Lizelle, where he is in auditing for Georgia Power Company. His wife is Denna. Email: dhagan@cox.net.

Jennie Roseann Powell (2005), formerly in Brunswick, is now in Loganville, where she is a CPA and senior tax manager for Wayne Noble & Company, CPAs, Savannah. She is married to Brandon James, a 2005 Georgia Southern construction management graduate.
Donnie Robinson (2005), Winston, is a financial planning specialist with Atlanta Financial Associates, Atlanta. He is working on an MBA at Georgia State. Email: donnierobrso32@yahoo.com.

Lauren Dean McCraw (2005), Savannah, is the acct. manager for Synergy Designer Homes. Email: laurenmc@synergy.com.

Brendy Luttrell (2005), Albany, is a claims adjuster with Progressive Insurance. She is engaged to Kyle Kimer, a 2003 Georgia Southern graduate. Email: brendy_l_luttrell@progressive.com.

Justin Elam (2005), formerly in Hinesville, is now in Carrollton, where he is the branch manager for American General Finance.

Robert Lee Brown, Jr. (2006), formerly in Kennesaw, is now in Lawrenceville, where he is a claims adjuster, for Liberty Mutual Insurance, Norcross. He is married to Tara Elizabeth Franklin, a 2007 Georgia Southern nursing graduate. Email: robertl.brown@libertymutual.com.

Sean T. Frost (2006), Canton, is a collector/AR specialist with Honda Financial Services. Email: frostsr24@hotmail.com.

Travis Turner (2006), Lawrenceville, is an account manager with Coyote Logistics, Alpharetta. Email: travisturner4@charter.net.

Laurel A. Atseguba (2007), Lawrenceville, is an account executive with Schneider National, Atlanta. Email: atseguba@yahoo.com.

Ryan B. Weigel (2007), is the internal finance auditor for AGL Resources, Atlanta. Email: weigleg@aglresources.com.

Morrell A. McCaskill (2007), formerly in the “Boro,” is now in Pooler, where he is a financial specialist for Wachovia Bank on Abercorn in Savannah. Email: mmccaskill@georgiasouthern.edu.

Charles R. Wirt (1971), Miami, FL, is a pilot and an aviation insurance agent with the Southeast Insurance Center, Miami. Email: pflyer48@aol.com.

Information Systems

Darren W. Bridges (1986), Atlanta, is now the president of Safe Systems, Inc., Alpharetta. His wife is Selena. Email: darren.bridges@salessystems.com.

Ryan B. Brennan (2000), formerly in Atlanta, is now in Roswell, where he is the regional sales manager for Foundry Networks. He is married to Heather Bowers. Email: rrbrennan@foundrynet.com.

Matt Selph (2002), Dublin, is the MIS coordinator for Fred’s Southeast Distribution Center. He is married to Kristen Davis.

Joshua B. Morris (2005), Alpharetta, is a systems engineer with Safe Systems, Inc. Email: gsusbass@gmail.com.

Jocelyn Carrie Smith (2005), Richmond Hill, is married to Chaz Brett Eure, a 2007 Georgia Southern public relations graduate.

Ryan Richardson (2006), Statesboro, has been named technology director and bank security officer for The Claxton Bank. He is also the owner/founder of Xtreme Computing. His wife is Brenda, and they have a son, Parker.

Logistics

Patrick M. O’Connell (1999), Tulsa, OK, is the director of distribution operations for Hilti, Inc., Broken Arrow, OK. He was on our swim team. Email: poconnell1659@gmail.com.

Matthew S. Laverne (2000), Lithia Springs, is the risk managers/safety director for the Douglas County Board of Commissioners, Douglasville. Email: mlaverne@gmail.com.

Jonathan LeFevers (2003), formerly in Americus, is married to the former April Lane, a current COE student, and they have a daughter, Cadence (3). Email: grovigators85@yahoo.com.

Amy Fox Balzarano (1998), Stamford, CT, is the HR manager for Alea North America, Rocky Hill, CT. She is married to Marc Balzarano. Email: amy.balzarano@alea.com.

Amy Haggan (2000), Metter, is employed by AirTran Airways, and recently married Brett Robertson Terrell.

Christopher D. Morgan (2000), Pooler, is the operations manager for Staples, Savannah. He is married to Marrianna Webb.

Heather Atline (2001), Pooler, is now an assistant manager for human resources for the Georgia Ports Authority, Garden City. She recently became a foster parent for two children. Email: haline@geaports.com.

Matt Henderson (2001), Woodstock, is employed by Pediatric services of America and completing a masters in accounting. He is married to Nancy Settle.

married Kara Mulyan, a 2007 Georgia Southern COE graduate.

Paul L. Rohdenhuber (2007), Portal, a Lt. in the Army National Guard, is married to Pamela Kay Neville, a 2006 Georgia Southern art history graduate.

Darryl M. Lott, Jr. (2007), formerly in Macon, GA, is now in Alachua, FL, where he is the dispatcher office manager for Wal-Mart, Inc. Email: mlott@hotmail.com.

Management

Kayla A. Daniel (1980), West Africa, is a missionary for the International Missionary Board. Email: lovafriends@usa.net.

Jennifer Bess Thomas (1995), Savannah, is now an HR business consultant for Memorial Health. She is married to Thomas Woelber, a 1996 Georgia Southern accounting graduate.

Amy Fox Balzarano (1998), Stamford, CT, is the HR manager for Alea North America, Rocky Hill, CT. She is married to Marc Balzarano. Email: amy.balzarano@alea.com.

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Matt Henderson (2001), Woodstock, is employed by Pediatric services of America and completing a masters in accounting. He is married to Nancy Settle.

Kim Boren (2003), Ft. Myers, FL, is the sales and marketing account manager for the Florida Everglades hockey team. Email: dboren2003@yahoo.com.

DeWayne Grice (2003), Statesboro, recently portrayed Bill Perry in the Averitt Center for the Arts production of “The Living Legacy of Erk Russell: A Life Done Right.” DeWayne is married to Lori, an award winning photographer and Georgia Southern marketing alumna.

M. Wayne Murphy (2004), Pooler, has been promoted to assistant golf professional for the Club of Savannah Harbor. Email: wayne.murphy@westin.com.

Sarah T. Chester (2004), Statesboro, has been promoted to assistant banking officer/deposit specialist with First Southern National Bank. She is married to Justin Chester.

Dana L. Beneman (2005), formerly in Statesboro, is now in Odessa, TX, where she is a Caseworker II with the Department of Family & Protective Services. Dana was on the Lady Eagles Basketball Team for four years. Email: divab2@hotmail.com.

Bradley C. Bonner (2006), Statesboro, is a professional poker player online. He is married to April Lane, a current COE student, and they have a daughter, Cadence (3). Email: gosuaggers85@yahoo.com.

Lagan E. Lanier (2006), Cobbtown, is the manager/owner of RediVal Electric and Ace Hardware, RediVille. He is married to Heather Jones, a 2005 Georgia Southern psychology graduate. Email: lanier11@hotmail.com.

Clay M. Elrod (2006), McDonough, is a trainmaster for Norfolk Southern, Gordon. He manages railroad operations in Middle Georgia for Norfolk Southern. Email: clay.elrod@ns corp.com.
ALUMNIVILLE

William M. West, II (2006), formerly in Whigham, is now in Macon, where he is the general manager of Auto Credit of Macon. Email: wmwest2@global.com.

Renard (R. J.) Monford (2007), Atlanta, is in outside sales with Fastenal, Decatur. R. J. was on the football team. Email: gage@stores.fastenal.com.

Marketing

Tracy Carnes Alter (1990), Albuquerque, NM, is the director of education and PR for the New Mexico Health Care Association. She is married to Joel Alter, and they have two daughters, Jordan (15) and Hailey (10). Email: abqtracy505@msn.com.

Paul S. Greenspan (1991), formerly in Marietta, is now in Bradleyton, FL, where he is president and owner for Ready-to-Sell. His wife is Mout. Email: paulgreenspan@readytosell.com.

Madeline Ann Chandler (1992), Ellijay, is an inkeeper at The Overlook Inn, Chatsworth. Email: madelinechandler@hotmail.com.

Matt Fowler (1994), Suwanee, is the owner of Georgia Water and Fire Restoration. He is married to Tina Butler, a 1994 Georgia Southern nutrition graduate. Email: matthew.fowler@overlookconnection.com.

Marty Sauls, IV (1994), Ridgeland, SC, public relations director of Tradition Hilton Head, Hardeeville, SC, has been elected president of the Jasper County (SC) Chamber of Commerce.

Waymond F. Allen (1998; MBA 2002), Pooler, is now a manufacturing engineer with Gulfstream Aerospace, Savannah. He is married to Kimberly McClain, a 2000 Georgia Southern nutrition graduate. Email: waymond.allen@gulfstream.com.

Kyle A. Hensel (2002; MBA 2003), formerly in Statesboro, is now in McDonough, where he is the area director of the Clayton State Small Business Development Center. Email: kylehensel@clayton.edu.

Sharon Jones (2004), formerly in Norcross, is now in Statesboro, where she is the office manager for Fire Tech.

Brandie Ellison (2005), Atlanta, is a junior brand planner with Fitzgerald & Co. Email: brandieellison2003@yahoo.com.


Lindi Lee Ellwood (2005), Register, an 8th grade math teacher for the Burke County BOE, is engaged to Will C. Sullivan, IV, a 2005 ABAC graduate.

Jamie A. DeMersman (2006), Decatur, is a branch manager with Wells Fargo. Email: jdemesrm@gmail.com.

Rachel Gibbs (2006), formerly in Pooler, is now in Knoxville, TN, where she is in international freight logistics with C.H. Robinson Worldwide. She is married to Georgia’s Southern alumnus Marshall Mason. Email: rachelmsr@gmail.com.


Staci Anderson (2006), Fort Mill, SC, is now a marketing analyst with Wachovia, Charlotte. Email: scanderson22@aol.com.

Tara Prindle (2007), formerly in Marietta, is now in Atlanta, where she is the executive administrative assistant for Alpha Delta Pi. Email: tprindle@alphadeltapi.com.

Desmund L. Nicely (2007), Stone Mountain, is an online consultant with CareerBuilder.com, Norcross. Email: desmund.nicely@careerbuilder.com.

Takisha Brown (2007), formerly in McDonough, is now in Lithuania, where she is a regional financial rep with Sherwin Williams, Tucker. Email: kiki0285@hotmail.com.

MBA

William B. McLeod (1990), Ashburn, VA, is now the sales director for Gulfstream Aerospace Corp., Ashburn. Email: billymac60@gmail.com.

Rob Stockton (1997), Tiger, general manager of Duvall Ford Co., Clayton, was inducted into the Georgia Southern Athletics Hall of Fame. He was on the football team from 1992–1995, First Team Academic All-American in 1995, and Second Team All Southern Conference as a defensive back. He is credited with 322 tackles, 7 interceptions, and 20 pass break-ups. His wife is Shirea.

Christian A. Jones (2000), Savannah, is the pharmacy manager for St. Joseph’s/Candler. He is married to Marie Palmer, and they are expecting their first child in August. Email: cjonespharmd@bellsouth.net.

Gina Taormina (2004), Statesboro, is CFO/COO for The Neurological Center of East Georgia. She is married to Dr. Michael Taormina.

Ryan S. Martin (2005), Pooler, is vice president of The Coastal Bank. He is married to Leigh Gladden. Email: rmartin85@coastbank.com.

Kimberly Lund Mathis (2006), formerly in Cordova, TN, is now in Jacksonville, FL, where she is a senior accountant with the PGA Tours, Ponte Vedra, FL. She is married to Douglas Mathis. Email: kilm1615@yahoo.com.

Sarah Stokes Meyer (2006), Brunswick, is the finance director for the Coastal Medical Access Project. She is married to Matthew Meyer. Email: smeyer@cm apples.org.

Ted W. Gibson, Sr. (2007), Pooler, is the senior procurement project manager with Gulfstream. His wife is Bertha. Email: twgbison014@yahoo.com.

Office Administration

Barbara Thompkins Gailey (1973), formerly in Conyers, is now in Hoschton, where she is retired. She is married to Tony Gailey, and the proud grandmother of four. Email: bgandtg@comcast.net.

In Memoriam

Bill Pallak (BS 1964), Hixson, TN, passed away on May 7, 2008.


Kevin C. Gordon (Mgt 1996), Riverdale, passed away on June 20, 2005.

Tony Petrea, Jr. (IS 2002), Tybee Island, passed away on April 6, 2008.

Nancy Jenkins Welch (1968), Highlands, NC, formerly of Statesboro, passed away on October 31, 2008.

LETSUS HEAR FROM YOU!

COBA Alumni Questionnaire

Full Name (include maiden name)________________________________________________________

Spouse’s Name (include maiden name)____________________________________________________

Georgia Southern Graduation Year(s)_________________________Degree(s)__________________________Major(s)___________________________

Home Address________________________________________________________City__________________________State____Zip_____________________

Home Phone Number (_________)_________________________Business Phone Number (_________)________________________

Employer________________________________________________________City__________________________State____Zip_____________________

Business Title________________________________________________________City__________________________State____Zip_____________________

Preferred Address for delivery ☐Home ☐Office

Complete this form and return to Lewis Stewart, Georgia Southern University, Business Alumni, P. O. Box 8002E, Statesboro, GA 30460-8002.
Jonathan Kraftchick, CPA and manager of training and recruiting for Cherry, Beltkamp & Holland, CPAs in Raleigh, NC, spoke at the annual School of Accountancy (SOA) Executive in Residence program held in October 2008 at the Performing Arts Center, Nessmith-Lane Continuing Education Building at Georgia Southern. In his training role, Kraftchick is responsible for implementing and evaluating the firm’s training and continuing education strategies through course development and teaching.

In his appearance as keynote speaker for the Executive in Residence program, he led a very informative, spirited, yet light hearted lecture to a packed auditorium of Georgia Southern students. Feedback from the students was excellent and many expressed regret it could not last longer than the hour and one-half session, which included questions and answers on financial literacy and how to manage credit. Since 2005, Mr. Kraftchick has led several financial literacy courses throughout North Carolina, mainly focusing on topics such as getting and staying out of debt, budgeting, couples’ finance, and wealth management. In 2006, he created a college student finance series to help graduating students to transition to the “real” world.

Mr. Kraftchick attended the University of Georgia initially majoring in theatre and religion before setting off to become an actor. Realizing that waiting tables and acting did not pay enough to make ends meet, he decided to return to school and major in accounting. After graduating with a BBA in accounting in 1969 from Georgia Southern, and an MPA, also in accounting, from Georgia State. John received his BS in business administration with a concentration in accounting and a master of professional accounting with an emphasis in taxation from the University of Tennessee.

Alex Knight, CPA, is a partner in the Advisory and Business Services Group at HLB, Atlanta, GA. Alex received his accounting degree from University of Georgia and holds an MBA in accounting.

Mike McCarthy, CPA, is an audit partner for Hancock Askew in Savannah. Mike’s experience includes managing the accounting and reporting work for public entity and debt offerings, business combinations and dispositions, advising internal audit departments on developing test plans and strategies to enhance corporate governance, and SEC filings. Mike holds a BS in accounting from Auburn University.

Erica Cobb is the senior corporate recruiter at TitleMax, headquartered in Savannah. She earned a BBA in marketing with an emphasis in sales from Georgia Southern in 2001. Erica serves on the Ad- visory Board for the Savannah Technical College and is an ambassador for the Savannah Chamber & Visitors Bureau.

Lori Grice (Marketing 2000) was invited by First Lady Laura Bush to join national artists in creating Christmas Tree decorations for the Blue Room of the White House. Lori and husband, Dwayne (Management 2003), attended an open house and preview ceremony on December 2, where she presented a Georgia Southern eagle, Freedom, ornament she designed from photos taken at the Georgia Southern-The University of Georgia football game.

Lori was recognized by Georgia Professional Photographers Association as 2007 Georgia Professional Photographer of the Year and one of the “Real” World.

Executive in Residence

The recent Dinner with the Dean series has evolved to help COBA make new friends and identify potential supporters for the College of Business Administration. The events usually take place as a small group setting; hosted by an individual or company, administered by Linda Wilke and Jamie Lane from COBA’s external relations department, and keynoted by Dean Shiffer. Guests are invited in order to build relationships within the community and present the current needs of the College. The first two Dinners with the Dean were held in Macon in June and September. The third Dinner with the Dean was held in Dublin in October. The fourth event this semester took place in Savannah and was hosted by Hancock Askew in October.